



Trap, Neuter, Return (TNR)

The TNR component of Maricopa County Animal Care & Control's (AC&C) Operation FELIX is designed to provide an effective solution to the free-roaming cat population problem that exists in Maricopa County. There are several benefits to TNR. Trap, Neuter, Return:

- **Stabilizes the population;**
- **Is more effective and less expensive than attempts at extermination;**
- **Eliminates or reduces annoying behaviors like spraying, yowling and fighting;**
- **Is the humane thing to do.**

What are the alternatives to TNR?

- **Do Nothing** – Eventually the problem will reach unmanageable levels and cause untold suffering. Cats reproduce very successfully!
- **Trap & Kill** – Aside from being inhumane, this approach is not a solution. The problem is everywhere. More cats will move in to fill the void and start the cycle over again.
- **Catch & Tame** – This approach is not realistic. Feral adults cannot be socialized to humans to the point where they are able to find homes as pets. Even if they could be tamed, the time and effort that goes into helping just a few cats is prohibitive.
- **Relocation** – There is no other place for them to go, and if you remove them other cats will come to take their place.

Requirements for participation in Operation FELIX:

- 1) Attend an orientation outlining the benefits of TNR and to have your questions answered. Register by calling 602-506-PETS.
- 2) Sign an agreement pledging to perform humane TNR under the rules and regulations specified at the orientation.

As a member of Operation FELIX, you will be adding your support to the growing number of individuals and businesses working to solve the free-roaming cat problem in Maricopa County effectively and humanely!